

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4061

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (GOULD, FRANK)

SUBJECT: W/W FRANK GOULD

REF: STATE 073950 (NOTAL)

1. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO REQUEST EMBASSY JAKARTA ASSISTANCE IN CONTINUING SEARCH TO LOCATE MISSING AMERICAN JOURNALIST FRANK GOULD.

2. GOULD DISAPPEARED IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES IN SUMMER OF 1974. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT HE WAS KILLED IN HOSTILITIES CONNECTED WITH ONGOING INSURGENCY IN AREA. HE WAS LAST DEFINITELY SEEN IN COTABATO (MINDANAO) IN SEPTEMBER 1974. SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS (NEVER FIRM) THAT GOULD WAS SEEN IN THE TAWI-TAWI AREA (SULU ARCHIPELAGO) IN SUMMER 1975 WITH INTENTION OF PROCEEDING TO SABAH OR SINGAPORE. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, GOULD LEFT PHILIPPINES ON VESSEL, M.L. "SPIRIT OF SIBUTU" ON JUNE 30, 1975 BOUND FOR SANDAKAN.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: GOULD WAS 27 YEARS ONLD AND HAD BEEN TRAVELING IN FAR EAST FOR SOME TIME AS FREE LANCE JOURNALIST. HE MAY HAVE HAD CONNECTION WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, WAS SYMPATHETIC TO FILIPINO MUSLIM REBELS, AND MAY HAVE SEEN HIMSELF IN EVENTUAL MEDIATORY ROLE BETWEEN REBELS AND GOVERNMENT. HIS
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FATHER, PROFESSOR WESLEY GOULD, TEACHES POLITICAL

SCIENCE AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY. FAMILY HAS GENERATED INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN CASE. MORE THAN A YEAR OF CONTINUOUS INVESTIGATION BY EMBASSY MANILA (WITH ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR) HAS THUS FAR YIELDED VIRTUALLY NOTHING.

4. APRIL 16 ISSUE OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW (FEER) CONTAINS ANOTHER REPORT SOURCED TO PHILARMY COLONEL TEOFISTO GUARANO, COMMANDER OF TAWI-TAWI THAT GOULD WAS LIVING AMONG MUSLIM REBELS ON TAWI-TAWI UNTIL EARLY 1975 WHEN HE LEFT FOR SABAH, ALLEGEDLY TO LOCATE MEMBERS OF MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT CENTRAL COMMITTEE. ACCORDING FEER, GUARANO SAID HE SAW GOULD BEFORE HE EMBARKED AND HEARD FROM SABAH SOURCES THAT HE ARRIVED SAFELY. THIS INFORMATION DOES NOT JIBE WITH CONSTANT DENIALS WHICH WE HAVE ELICITED FROM SULU AREA MILITARY THAT THEY HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING GOULD. BEGIN FYI-IN ATTEMPTING TO CHECK FEER ACCOUNT WITH DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND) APRIL 14, DAO WAS TOLD DND HAD LAST COMMUNICATED WITH PROFESSOR GOULD IN LETTER DATED APRIL 5. DND LETTER SAID GOULD WAS LAST SEEN IN AUGUST 1974 IN BUNGAO IN COMPANY OF LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, BON GUAN LI. DND TOLD DAO THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT COLONEL GUARANO TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT INFORMATION HE ALLEGEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO FEER ARTICLE. DAO WILL FOLLOW UP WITH DND TO SEE WHAT THEIR INQUIRIES OF GUARANO ELICIT. END FYI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR JAKARTA-REFTEL REQUESTED EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR TO CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE INFORMATION OR LEADS AVAILABLE SABAH. POSSIBILITY ALSO EXISTS THAT GOULD MIGHT HAVE EXITED PHILIPPINES INTO INDONESIAN BORNEO. APPRECIATE YOUR CHECKING THIS POSSIBILITY WITH INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES. ON NEXT CONSULAR VISIT TO EAST KALIMANTAN, PLEASE FOLLOW UP AT LOCAL LEVEL IN TARAKAN AND/OR ELSEWHERE. FOR WASHINGTON-PLEASE PROVIDE EMBASSY JAKARTA WITH PHOTOS OF GOULD PLUS OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE. PLEASE ALSO REPEAT REFTTEL TO JAKARTA. STULL

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